

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for selectively extending and retracting a slide-out portion of a vehicle, comprising:

an elongated member movable relative to the vehicle;

a base member fixed relative to the vehicle; and

a drive system disposed on the elongated member, the drive system sized to move the elongated member relative to the base member, the drive system located in a space internal to said vehicle..

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member comprises a top surface, two opposing sides joined to the top surface, and an inwardly projecting lip extending from a bottom edge of the opposing sides.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member is slideably engaged with the base member.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base gear assembly comprises a rotatable shaft spanning between a first side of the base member and a second side of the base member, and a gear unitary with the rotatable shaft.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the base member further comprises a mounting bracket angled to mount onto the wheel well of a vehicle.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member further comprises an acme screw engaged with an acme nut, the acme nut mounted to the base member.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the drive system for extending and retracting the slide member is selected from the group consisting of an electric motor, an integral motor brake, a hydraulic motor, and a pneumatic mechanism.

8. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising two elongated members and two base members, the two elongated members each having a gear rack coupled to a bottom surface of the elongated member, and the two base members each having a base gear assembly engageable with the gear rack, the base gear assembly coupled to each other with a cross-shaft.
9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the drive system for extending and retracting the slide member is a manual crank shaft.
10. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the elongated member further comprises an acme screw coupled to the drive system and engaged with an acme nut, the acme nut mounted to the base member.
11. An apparatus for selectively extending and retracting a slide-out portion of a vehicle, comprising:

an elongated member having a top surface, two opposing sides joined to the top surface, and an inwardly projecting lip extending from a bottom edge of the opposing sides, the elongated member also having a gear rack on a bottom surface of the elongated member and an acme screw mounted parallel to the gear rack;

a base member fixed to the vehicle having a first mounting bracket coupled to a distal end of the base member and a second mounting bracket coupled to a proximal end of the base member, the base member also having an acme bolt engaged with the acme screw, and also having a base gear assembly engageable with the gear rack, the base gear assembly having a rotatable shaft spanning between a first side of the base member and a second side of the base member, and a gear unitary with the rotatable shaft; and

a drive system for extending and retracting the elongated member coupled to the elongated member, the drive system located in a space internal to the vehicle.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising two elongated members and two base members, the base gear assembly of each base member coupled to each other with a cross-shaft.

13. A method of selectively extending and retracting a slide-out portion of a vehicle comprising:

providing a base framework fixedly mounted on the vehicle;

providing a slide-out framework mounted on the vehicle and movable relative to the base framework; and

urging movement of the slide-out framework relative to the base framework by actuating a drive system disposed on said slide-out framework internal to the vehicle

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the drive system for extending and retracting an elongated member is selected from the group consisting of an electric motor, an integral motor brake, a hydraulic motor, and a pneumatic mechanism.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the drive system for extending and retracting an elongated member comprises a manual crankshaft.

16. The method of claim 13 wherein the elongated member comprises a top surface, two opposing sides joined to the top surface, and an inwardly projecting lip extending from a bottom edge of the opposing sides.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the base gear assembly comprises a rotatable shaft spanning between a first side of the base member and a second side of the base member, and a gear unitary with the rotatable shaft.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the base member further comprises a mounting bracket angled to mount onto the wheel well of a vehicle.

19. The method of claim 13 wherein the elongated member further comprises an acme screw engaged with an acme nut, the acme nut mounted to the base member.
20. The method of claim 13 further comprising at least two elongated members and at least two base members, the base gear assemblies coupled with a cross shaft.